

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SY-10 OMB-01

DRC-01 /189 W

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R 120230Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0128

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA

SUBJ: LA OUTRAGE OVER GA INCIDENTS OCT. 10

1. AMB. LANG (NICARAGUA) CALLED AMB. BENNETT MORNING OCT. 11 TO REITERATE NICARAGUAN OUTRAGE OVER INCIDENTS IN GA OCT. 10, PARTICULARLY FACT THAT CUBANS WHO APPROACHED PODIUM WHILE CHILEAN MAKING RIGHT OF REPLY CARRIED GUNS. LANG'S CALL WAS PRIMARILY TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT GUN PERMITS FOR NICARAGUAN DIPLOMATS.

2. LATER IN MORNING AMB. LANG AND AMB. MARTINEZ ORDONEZ (HONDURAS) APPROACHED AMB. SCHAUFLE IN CORRIDOR TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER. MARTINEZ ORDONEZ SAID THAT LAS (NICARAGUA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HONDURAS, COLOMBIA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL AND OTHERS) WERE APPALLED AT WHAT HAD HAPPENED DURING GA SESSION, PARTICULARLY FACT THAT CUBAN DELEGATE HAD "PULLED GUN" ON PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR.

3. MARTINEZ ORDONEZ SAID THAT LAS HAD SUFFERED LOSS OF FACE BECAUSE "ATTACK" WAS MADE BY LA REPS ON ANOTHER LA REP IN SESSION PRESIDED OVER BY LA. ABOVE MENTIONED GROUP WISHES TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT POSSIBILITY OF
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SERIOUS - POSSIBLY SHOOTING -INCIDENTS IN THE UN. HE ASKED IF WE COULD SUPPLY HIM ANY INFORMATION ON PERMISSIBILITY OF CARRYING GUNS IN UN BUILDINGS. TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.

4. SCHAUFEELE SAID HE WOULD SEND HIM COPY OF HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT (WHICH HE DID) BUT THAT SECURITY IN UN HEAD-QUARTERS WOULD APPEAR TO BE RESPONSIBILITY OF UN ITSELF. MARTINEZ ORDONEZ REITERATED THAT LAS WISHED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS INCIDENT AND AT LEAST MAKE PUBLIC PROTEST TO SYG ABOUT CARRYING GUNS. SCHAUFEELE SAID THAT HIS IMPRESSION IS THAT SECURITY GUARDS FOR CHIEFS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS NORMALLY CARRIED GUNS BUT MARTINEZ ORDONEZ INTERJECTED TO POINT OUT THAT IT WAS NOT CUBAN SECURITY MAN WHO PULLED GUN BUT MEMBER OF CUBAN DELEGATION, ACOSTA RODRIGUEZ. SCHAUFEELE SAID HE PERSONALLY DID NOT APPROVE OF DELEGATES CARRYING GUNS BUT WAS NOT SURE WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. NEVERTHELESS HE ENCOURAGED MARTINEZ ORDONEZ TO PURSUE MATTER AND THOUGHT THAT EVIDENT CONCERN AND PROTEST MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT.

5. COMMENT: IN OUR JUDGMENT UN SECURITY DURING THE INCIDENT WAS EFFECTIVE ALTHOUGH ITS REACTION TIME WAS INITIALLY SLOW. CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER WALKED DOWN THE AISLE SHOUTING OBSCENITIES AND WAS NOT INTERCEPTED UNTIL HE HAD REACHED PODIUM. OBVIOUSLY EVEN EXPERIENCED SECURITY MEN ARE RELUCTANT TO INTERCEPT A FOREIGN MINISTER, ESPECIALLY IF HE IS ONLY WALKING. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS KIND OF JUDGMENT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ANY SECURITY OFFICER.

6. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT UN SECURITY WAS VERY EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING PHYSICAL VIOLENCE THEREAFTER.
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